

WARRANT FOR MARCH 2, 2024 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

To Dianna Rollins, a resident of the Town of Solon in the County of Somerset:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required by law to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Solon, qualified to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Solon Elementary School on the 2nd day of March AD 2024 at eight o'clock in the forenoon, then and there, in accordance with the Revised Statutes of the State of Maine 1964, Title 30, Paragraph 2051 and seq. or as amended, to elect a moderator, and to transact all other business as enumerated in this Warrant.

For the election of officials, the polls will open immediately after the election of a Moderator and will remain open until 12:15 PM. The Clerk will open absentee ballots at 10:00 AM on March 2, 2024. The transaction of other business as enumerated will begin at 1:30 PM.

Municipal Clerk, Leslie Giroux, opened the 2024 Annual Town Meeting at 8:00 am by making the above introduction.

Article 1: To choose a Moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

Motion to elect Hailey Dellarma as Moderator: Leslie Giroux. Second: Elaine Aloes. Secret ballot vote resulted in three votes for Hailey Dellarma.

Peter Mills was appointed as Deputy Moderator.

Article 2: To elect by secret ballot all municipal officials and school committee members required to be elected.
Nominated Candidates:

Selectman, 3-year term: (write in candidates only)	Wayne Johnson	36
Road Commissioner, 1-year term:	Gary Bishop	58
	Jeffrey Cyr	42
RSU # 74 School Board Director, 3-year term:	Keith Plourd	89

Announcements: *Mrs. Pooler announced the Solon Pine Tree 4-H Club's annual fundraiser for Solon Community Food Cupboard. They collect donations during voting at town meetings.*

A local resident is starting a Girl Scout troop for K-2 grade and wanted to notify them they were open to enrollment and looking for parent volunteers to expand it to other age groups. She will provide more information with the town and school as she has it.

Leslie Giroux spoke about the Solon Community Food Cupboard & Thrift Store's updates regarding the 501(c)(3) non-profit status, establishment of a new Board of Directors, fundraising and the impending purchase of the property at 56 North Main St, formerly known as the Solon Superette.

Representative Russell Black introduced himself to his constituents.

Spirit of America award - L. Bruce Hills

Article 3: Shall the Town increase the property tax levy limit of \$757,776, established for the Town of Solon by State law, in the event the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

*Motion to approve Article 3 as recommended: Marylou Ridley. Second: Craig Gerry.
Motion carries.*

Article 4: To see if the town will vote to take \$7,843.87 from the 2023 Surplus for overage in the Winter Roads account.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

*Motion to Approve article 4 as recommended: Craig Gerry/ Second: Marylou Ridley.
Motion carries.*

Article 5: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

Salaries & Benefits	\$209,875
Insurance	\$ 40,000
Town Office Utilities	\$ 8,000
Town Charges	\$ 43,140
Town Office Maintenance	\$ 2,500
Training, Books, & Dues	\$ 2,385

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$305,900 plus fees

*Motion to approve Article 5 as recommended: Frank Ridley. Second: Marylou Ridley.
Motion carries.*

Article 6: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for PUBLIC WORKS.

Winter Roads	\$149,000
Summer Roads	\$143,000
Transfer Station	\$ 99,500

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$391,500 plus fees, income, & reimbursements.

*Motion the approve Article 6 as recommended: Frank Ridley. Second: Kyle Bishop.
Motion carries.*

Article 7: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for COOLIDGE LIBRARY RESERVE

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$25,600 plus reserve funds, fees, and investment income

*Motion to approve Article 7 as recommended: Marylou Ridley. Second Kyle Bishop.
Motion carries.*

Article 8: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for the FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Fire Department	\$49,200
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Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$49,200 plus reimbursements & donations

*Motion to approve Article 8 as recommended: Deb Gerry. Second: Marylou Ridley.
Motion carries.*

Article 9: To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Fire Hydrants	\$24,900
Street Lights	\$ 8,000
Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend	\$32,900

*Motion to approve Article 9 as recommended: Deb Gerry. Second: Kyle Bishop.
Motion carries.*

Article 10: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for SOCIAL SERVICES.

General Assistance	\$15,000
KVCAP Transportation Service	\$ 750 (request \$750)
Hospice	\$ 1,000 (request \$1,000)
Spectrum Generations	\$ 788 (request \$787.50)
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$ 500 (request \$500)
Sexual Support & Crisis Center	\$ 300 (request \$342)
Solon Food Cupboard	\$ 6,000 (request \$6,000)
Lifeflight Foundation	\$ 200 (request \$978)
American Red Cross	\$ 150 (request \$150)
Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend	\$24,688

Motion to approve Article 10 as recommended: Craig Gerry. Second: Marylou Ridley.

*Motion to amend food cupboard request from \$6,000 to \$15,000: Deb Gerry. Second: Paula Rogers.
Amendment carries.*

*Motion to approve Article 10 as amended: Deb Gerry. Second: Paula Rogers.
Motion carries.*

Article 11: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for CODE ENFORCEMENT.

Code Enforcement Officer	\$ 6,200
911 Addressing Officer	\$ 260
Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend	\$6,460 plus fees

*Motion to approve Article 11 as recommended: Lisa Caldwell. Second: Richard Roberts.
Motion carries.*

Article 12: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for LEISURE SERVICES.

Recreation Program Reserve	\$3,000
Recreation Facilities & Maintenance Res.	\$1,500 \$2,000 (
Swim/Camp Program Reserve	\$1,500
Special Events	\$1,000
4th of July Fireworks	\$2,200
Baker Mountain Ski Club	\$1,250
Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend	\$10,950 plus fees, donations, & reserve funds

*Motion to approve Article 12 as recommended: Lisa Caldwell. Second: Marylou Ridley.
Motion carries. (Typo: for Rec Facilities should say \$2,000; total approved is correct)*

Article 13: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM RESERVE.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$6,800 plus fees, donations, & reserve funds

Motion to approve Article 13 as recommended: Marylou Ridley. Second: Lisa Caldwell.

Motion carries.

Article 14: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for CEMETERIES.

Cemetery Maintenance Reserve \$24,700

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$24,700 plus reserve funds, fees, and investment income

Motion to approve Article 14 as recommended: Lois Miller. Second: Marylou Ridley.

Motion carries.

Article 15: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for ANIMAL WELFARE.

Animal Shelter \$2,000

Animal Control Officer \$3,500

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$5,500

Motion to approve Article 15 as recommended: Deb Gerry. Second: Paula Rogers.

Motion carries.

Article 16: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for ORGANIZATION DUES.

Old Canada Road Byway \$ 500 (requested \$500)

Kennebec Council of Governments \$1,700 (requested \$1,700)

Maine Municipal Association \$2,350 (requested \$2,350)

Somerset Economic Development \$ 100 (requested \$100)

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$4,650

Motion to approve Article 16 as recommended: Lois Miller. Second: Marylou Ridley.

Motion carries.

Article 17: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS.

Road Paving Reserve Account \$ 15,000

Gravel Roads Reserve \$ 10,000

Highway Equipment Reserve \$220,000

Transfer Station Truck & Equipment Res. \$ 7,500

Coolidge Library Capital Reserve \$ 3,000

Municipal Buildings Maintenance Reserve \$ 3,500

Fire Truck Reserve \$ 8,000

Fire Department Capital Reserve \$ 1,000

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$268,000

Motion to approve Article 17 as recommended: Lisa Caldwell. Second: Marylou Ridley.

Motion carries.

Article 18: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for RESERVE ACCOUNTS.

Municipal Buildings Heat Reserve	\$12,000
GIS Mapping Reserve	\$ 2,000
Assessing Revaluation Reserve	\$10,000
Town Line Survey Reserve	\$ 2,500
Municipal Grounds Maintenance Reserve	\$ 2,500
Town Flags Reserve	\$ 2,000
Town Records Preservation Reserve	\$ 4,500

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$35,500

*Motion to approve Article 18 as recommended: Lois Miller. Second: Lisa Caldwell.
Motion carries.*

Article 19: Shall the Town approve closing the Tree Planting Reserve Account and moving the \$1,000 in that account to the Municipal Grounds Maintenance Reserve Account?

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

*Motion to approve Article 19 as recommended: Lisa Caldwell. Second: Marylou Ridley.
Motion carries.*

Article 20. Shall the Town create a Web Site Fee Reserve Account for the purpose of maintaining our town website.

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and that the funds can only be expended by approval of the Selectmen.

*Motion to approve Article 20 as recommended: Lisa Caldwell. Second: Marylou Ridley.
Motion carries.*

Article 21. Shall the Town raise by taxation a sum of money for the Web Site Fee Reserve Account?

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$2,000

*Motion to approve Article 21 as recommended: Craig Gerry. Second: Lisa Caldwell
Motion carries.*

Article 22: Shall the Town create a Fire Department Safety Equipment Reserve Account for the purpose of purchasing safety equipment for our firefighters.

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and that the funds can only be expended by approval of the Selectmen and the Fire Chief.

Article 23: Shall the Town raise by taxation a sum of money for the Fire Department Equipment Reserve Account?

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$5,000

*Motion to approve Article 23 as recommended: Marylou Ridley. Second: Lois Miller.
Motion carries.*

Article 24: Shall the Town create a Town Garage Reserve Account for the purpose of putting aside funds for the replacement or renovation of the town garage.

Recommendation: Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and that the funds can only be expended by approval of the Selectmen and the Road Commissioner.

*Motion to approve Article 24 as recommended: Craig Gerry. Second: Marylou Ridley.
Motion carries.*

Article 25: Shall the Town approve transferring funds from the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Reserve to the Town Garage Reserve Account?

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and transferring \$45,000

*Motion to approve Article 25 as recommended: Craig Gerry. Second: Marylou Ridley.
Motion carries.*

Article 26: Shall the town authorize the Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend grant money for the purpose of building a new Public Works Garage Building to replace our existing town garage.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

*Motion to approve Article 26 as recommended: Lois Miller. Second: Craig Gerry.
Motion carries.*

Article 27: Shall the Town raise an amount by taxation for account overdrafts, unforeseen events, or emergencies. Any use of this contingency arrangement must be voted on at a Select Board meeting and any expenditures will be listed in the subsequent town report.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and an amount of \$5,000

*Motion to approve Article 27 as recommended: Lisa Caldwell. Second: Marylou Ridley..
Motion carries.*

Article 28: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to use funds from the Highway Equipment Reserve to purchase a new truck, plow assembly, and dump body/sander.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and to expend up to \$238,000

*Motion to approve Article 28 as recommended: Marylou Ridley. Second: Kyle Bishop.
Motion carries.*

Article 29: Shall the Town approve using \$98,628.98 from FEMA's Federal Emergency Declaration reimbursement for the May 1, 2023, rain flooding event to reimburse the LRAP funds used to cover the Summer Roads budget overage.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

*Motion to approve Article 29 as recommended: Deb Gerry. Second: Lois Miller.
Motion carries.*

Article 30: Shall the town appropriate from the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) an amount to purchase a baler and other associated equipment for the Transfer Station.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and using up to \$15,000 of the ARPA funds.

*Motion to approve Article 30 as recommended: Craig Gerry. Second: Lisa Caldwell.
Motion carries.*

Motion to amend Article 30 to include dedicating \$5,000 from the Transfer Station Equipment Reserve for a total budget of \$20,000: Craig Gerry. Second: Lois Miller.

Amendment carries.

Article 31: Shall the Selectmen be authorized to enter into discussions with MDOT and the Old Canada Road Scenic Byway Committee regarding ownership, maintenance, and improvements of the Robbins Hill Scenic Overlook (Map R7 Lot 26, Map 8 Lot 10, and Map 8 Lot 15) and to create a committee as needed.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

*Motion to approve Article 31 as recommended: Marylou Ridley. Second: Bruce Hills.
Motion carries.*

Article 32: Shall the town change the office of Road Commissioner from an elected to an appointed office beginning with the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

Selectmen make no recommendation and Advisory Committee recommends Yes

*Motion to approve Article 32 as recommended: Lisa Caldwell. Second: Bruce Hills.
Motion FAILS.*

Article 33: Shall the Town name the road starting on S. Main Street (Route 201) at GPS location 44.927011 69.830953 and going in a northeasterly direction to McCarty Road at GPS location 44.937111 69.823875 the Woods Road. (this currently unnamed road is across the road from 447 S. Main St.)

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

*Motion to approve Article 33 as recommended: Marylou Ridley. Second: Deb Gerry.
Motion carries.*

Article 34: Shall the Town approve the use of LRAP funds to extend the length of the 3 culverts at Michael Stream on the Hole in the Wall Road.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and using up to \$40,000

*Motion to approve Article 34 as recommended: Deb Gerry. Second: Paula Rogers
Motion carries.*

Suggestion to discuss with contractor: install hooded inlet on the culvert extensions.

Article 35: Shall the Town authorize the municipal officers to make final determinations regarding the closing and opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A Section 2953.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

*Motion to approve Article 35 as recommended: Marylou Ridley. Second: Craig Gerry.
Motion carries.*

Article 36: Shall the town authorize the municipal officers to apply for, accept and expend grant money available from the State or Federal government or other organization for any public purpose when they deem it to be in the town's best interest and any needed matching funds are available within the current budget and/or reserve funds.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

*Motion to approve Article 36 as recommended: Marylou Ridley. Second: Deb Gerry.
Motion carries.*

Article 37: Shall the town give the Selectmen and/or the Fire Chief permission to apply for, accept and expend any grants to purchase equipment, firefighting equipment and safety equipment for the Fire Department.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

*Motion to approve Article 37 as recommended: Lois Miller. Second: Ray Koziupa
Motion carries.*

Article 38: Shall the town accept the following tax related articles:

1. Shall the town authorize the Tax Collector and Treasurer to apply any property tax overpayment of less than \$100 to that person's next year's property taxes.
2. Shall the town authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506.
3. Shall the town raise and appropriate from the overlay to pay for tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the fiscal year 2024.
4. Shall the town use any surplus funds in excess of \$110,000.00 to reduce taxes.
5. Shall the town authorize the Selectmen to procure a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) for the purpose of paying municipal indebtedness; such note to be repaid during the current fiscal year from taxes paid during the municipal year.
Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

*Motion to approve Article 38 as recommended: Deb Gerry. Second: Marylou Ridley.
Motion carries.*

Article 39: If the Town accepts Article 38-2, what, if any, interest shall the Town pay on these prepaid taxes? (If the Town votes to pay interest, it cannot be more than 7%.)
Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend 0%.

*Motion to approve Article 39 as recommended: Deb Gerry. Second: Marylou Ridley.
Motion carries.*

Article 40: Shall the town set September 20, 2024 as the date when all unpaid 2024 taxes become interest bearing at the rate to be set by the State. (Rate being 7%)
Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

*Motion to approve Article 39 as recommended: Marylou Ridley. Second: Richard Roberts.
Motion carries.*

Article 41: Shall the town set the interest rate to be paid by the town on abated taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506-A
Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and at a rate of 0%.

*Motion to approve Article 40 as recommended: Marylou Ridley. Second: Lois Miller
Motion carries.*

Adjourned by Moderator, Peter Mills at 2:51pm

Given under my hand this 7th day of February A.D., 2024,

Elaine Aloes, Chair of Selectmen
Wayne Johnson, Vice Chair of Selectmen

John Dunay, Selectman

Attest true copy: Leslie Giroux, Town Clerk

Pursuant to within warrant, I have hereby notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Solon, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Solon Elementary School on the 2nd day of March AD 2024 at eight o'clock in the morning then and there in accordance with the Revised Statutes of the State of Maine, 1964, Title 30, Paragraph 2051 and seq. or as amended to act on all articles herein enumerated in this warrant posted at the Solon Town Office, Solon Post Office, Solon Corner Store, and Griswold's Store, conspicuous and public places within Solon, on the 12th day of February AD 2024, which is at least seven days prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Dianna Rollins, a resident of Solon.